

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani
Monica Simon
Sheila Pomeroy

DATE: August 11, 2000

RE: Hospitalization for Psychiatric and Substance Abuse Disorders: 1998

The prevalence of substance abuse among people in mental health treatment is a longstanding concern among mental health administrators and advocates. It is also one of the indicators targeted by the Sixteen State Performance Indicator Project. The attached tables provide information on the prevalence of dual diagnosis (mental health and substance abuse) among Vermont residents who were hospitalized for behavioral health care during calendar year 1998 in each of five types of inpatient facility. Data sets provided by the Vermont State Hospital and the Brattleboro Retreat include data set specific unique person identifiers so the prevalence of dual diagnosis (within and across episodes of hospitalization) was measured using record matching technology. Data sets provided by general hospitals in Vermont and New Hampshire and by the Veterans Hospital in White River Junction do not include any unique person identifiers. For this reason, the prevalence of dual diagnosis (within and across episodes of hospitalization) was measured using Probabilistic Population Estimation.

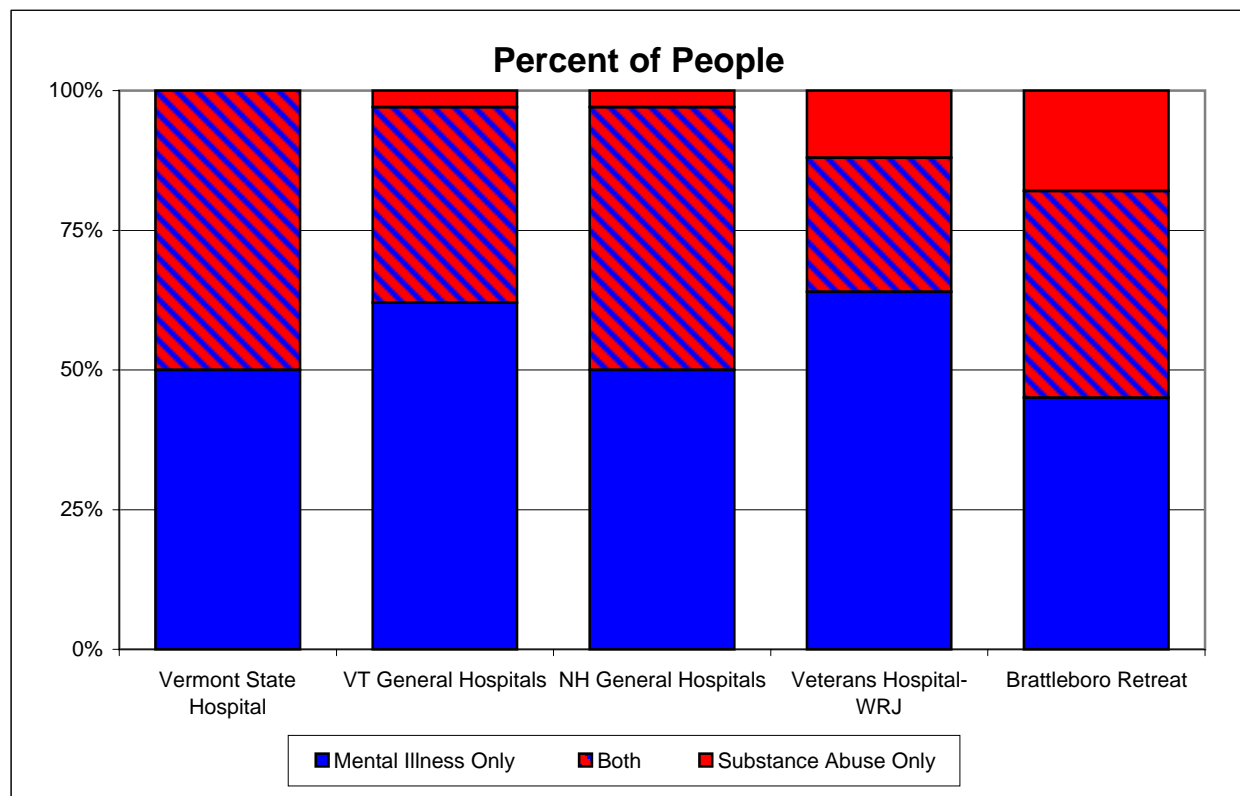
As you will see, dual diagnosis (mental health and substance abuse) was common at all facilities. People with both diagnoses were 47% of those hospitalized for behavioral health care in New Hampshire general hospitals and 35% in Vermont general hospitals, 37% at the Brattleboro Retreat, 24% at the Veterans hospital, and 50% at the Vermont State Hospital. Very few of the people who were hospitalized for behavioral health care had only a substance abuse diagnosis. A substance abuse diagnosis without a mental health diagnosis was most common at the Brattleboro Retreat and the Veterans Hospital in White River Junction where 18% and 12% (respectively) of all episodes of behavioral health care fell into this category.

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Substance abuse only diagnoses accounted for only 3% of the people hospitalized at general hospitals in Vermont and New Hampshire, and only one person at the Vermont State Hospital had only a substance abuse diagnosis.

As analysis of data on all episodes of hospitalization of Vermont residents for behavioral health care during 1990 through 1998 is completed we will be sharing the results with you. Please let us know if you have questions to ask of these data. We will be happy to respond to your interests. We will also appreciate your comments and your questions about the information provided this week. Please call 802-241-2638 or e-mail your comments to jpandiani@ddmhs.state.vt.us.

Mental Illness and Substance Abuse Diagnoses of VT Residents Hospitalized for Behavioral Health Care 1998



Percent of People

Diagnosis	Vermont State Hospital	VT General Hospitals	NH Hospitals	Veterans Hospital-WRJ	Brattleboro Retreat
Substance Abuse Only	0%	3% ± 2%	3% ± 2%	12% ± 6%	18%
Both	50%	35% ± 2%	47% ± 3%	24% ± 7%	37%
Mental Illness Only	50%	62% ± 2%	50% ± 3%	64% ± 6%	45%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Number of People

Diagnosis	Vermont State Hospital	VT General Hospitals	NH Hospitals	Veterans Hospital-WRJ	Brattleboro Retreat
Substance Abuse Only	1	48 ± 9	13 ± 4	15 ± 2	83
Both	134	578 ± 10	182 ± 4	30 ± 2	167
Mental Illness Only	133	1035 ± 14	195 ± 4	82 ± 2	207
Total	268	1661 ± 12	390 ± 3	127 ± 2	457

Information is derived from the Hospital Discharge Data Set maintained by the Vermont Health Department, and database extracts provided by the Brattleboro Retreat and Vermont State Hospital.

The State of Vermont does not have unique client identifiers across service providers. For this reason, Probabilistic Population Estimation has been used to provide unduplicated counts of people served (with 95% confidence intervals). Actual person counts are available for Brattleboro Retreat and the Vermont State Hospital.